

Newton County Ag Scene

November/December, 2014

Andrew Martin, Extension Educator, ANR
Email: marti867@purdue.edu



Upcoming Calendar Dates



Bi-State Ag Programs

A collaboration with University of Illinois Extension at The Beef House, Covington

- November 19 – Farming for the Future Series, 2:30-9:00 pm EST (*see flyer enclosed*)
 - December 9 – Crops Conference, 9:00 am-3:00 pm ET
 - January 27, 2015 – Garden Seminar
- Contact Andrew Martin with questions at 219-285-8620.

Illiana Vegetable Growers Symposium

Do you grow vegetables for a farmstand, farmers market, or wholesale buyer? Come to network with other growers, meet seed company reps and suppliers, and learn from University specialists.

January 6, 2015, 8:00 am-4:00 pm CT,
Tiebel's Restaurant, Schererville, IN



Contact Andrew Martin with questions at 219-285-8620.

PARP Meetings

- ✓ December 8 - Tri-County Pesticide program, Tri-County High School, 6:00-8:00 pm CST
- ✓ January 12, 2015-EZ Ag Winter meeting, Earl's Restaurant, Brook, 8:00 am-12:00 noon
- ✓ February 4, 2015-Herbicide Resistant Weed meeting, Newton County Government Center, Morocco

Not sure how many classes you've attended to complete the requirement for keeping your license? Call our office to find out!

Contact Andrew Martin with questions at 219-285-8620.



Farm Bill Deadlines

- ✓ Base Acre Reallocation & Yield Updates-September 29, 2014-February 27, 2015
- ✓ ARC/PLC Election-November 17, 2014-March 31, 2015
- ✓ ARC/PLC Enrollment-April 2015-summer 2015

Contact Andrew Martin with questions at 219-285-8620.

Farming for the Future: Generations on the Family Farm

January 29, 6:00-8:30 pm. Understanding the differences in our generations can help give you the tools for Estate Planning and workforce development. More information to come.

Optimum Timing of Fall Treatment

The optimum timing of fall herbicide treatments can vary based on life cycle, and we can roughly lump the various life cycles into one of two categories:

1. Must be treated before frost, which pertains to all warm-season perennials, including johnsongrass, pokeweed, milkweeds and hemp dogbane and horsenettle. The first frost will cause these weeds to shut down, if they have not already matured and senesced. Herbicides are no longer effective after this occurs.
2. Can be treated after frost, and in some cases even after a hard freeze. Winter annuals, biennials and cool-season perennials fit into this category, and they are often most effectively controlled when herbicides are applied between mid-October and mid-November.

Winter annuals, including chickweed, purple deadnettle, mustards and cressleaf groundsel among others, emerge in late summer into fall. They survive frost and are still sensitive to herbicides even after cold weather in December, based on our research. Herbicide activity in these weeds slows down in cold weather, but the effective treatments still eventually kill emerged weeds.

(continued on back side)

It's not necessary to wait until frost to apply herbicides, except that: 1) treatment too early in fall can miss the plants that are still emerging; and 2) for treatments that include herbicides with residual activity (metribuzin, simazine, Canopy, etc.), the soil temperatures in early fall are still warm enough for herbicide degradation to occur. This reduces the amount of herbicide present in spring, potentially allowing weeds to emerge earlier in spring than intended. It's not necessary to use glyphosate for control of winter annuals, unless winter annual grasses are present. They can be controlled with combinations of 2,4-D and either glyphosate, metribuzin, Canopy, Basis or simazine.

Biennials, such as poison hemlock and wild carrot, are most effectively controlled in the fall at the end of their first year of growth, when they exist as a low-growing rosette. We do not have experience trying to control these with herbicides in winter under very cold conditions, but they are dormant then and should probably be treated in the mid-October to mid-November application window. Fall treatments for biennial weeds will generally be most effective when they include glyphosate and 2,4-D.

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, Invasive Species

November 2014 Garden Calendar – B. Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

If plants are dropping many leaves, move them closer to sunny exposures, such as west- and south-facing windows. Artificial lights may be needed to supplement particularly dark rooms.

Pot spring-flowering bulbs with tips exposed to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.

Continue dark treatment for poinsettias by keeping them in complete darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily until early December or until red bracts begin to show.



YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

Prevent rabbit and rodent feeding damage by erecting physical barriers, such as metal mesh (one-fourth inch) hardware cloth. Pull mulch a few inches away from the trunk, as the mulch provides a warm winter home for rodents. Chemical repellents also are available, but their effectiveness is temporary and not foolproof.

Protect the graft union on rose bushes by mounding soil around the plants and adding mulch on top. Wait until several killing frosts have occurred so plants will be dormant when covered. Plants covered too early may be smothered.

Continue mowing lawn as needed. As tree leaves fall, run them through your mower (remove bagger), allowing the shredded leaves to remain on the lawn. Be sure to mow only when grass and leaves are dry.

A November application of fertilizer can help keep lawns green into winter and boost early spring recovery. Apply one-half to 1 pound actual nitrogen, per 1,000 square feet of lawn. See [“Turfgrass Management: Fertilizing Established Cool-Season Lawns”](#) for more information on lawn fertilization.



GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

Harvest mature green tomatoes before frost, and ripen indoors in the dark. Store at 55-70 degrees F. The warmer the temperature, the faster they ripen.

Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 degrees F), humid location. Use perforated plastic bags as an easy way to increase humidity.

Remove crop and weed plant debris from the garden and add to the compost pile. This will help reduce the carryover of diseases, insects and weeds to next year's garden.

Fall tilling, except in erosion-prone areas, helps improve soil structure and usually leads to soils warming and drying faster in the spring. This allows crops to be planted earlier.

Apply mulch to strawberries to prevent winter injury or death to their crowns. Wait until temperatures have hit 20 degrees F to be sure plants are dormant. If mulch is applied too soon the plant's crown can rot.

Dig and store tender flowering bulbs, and keep in a protected location.

